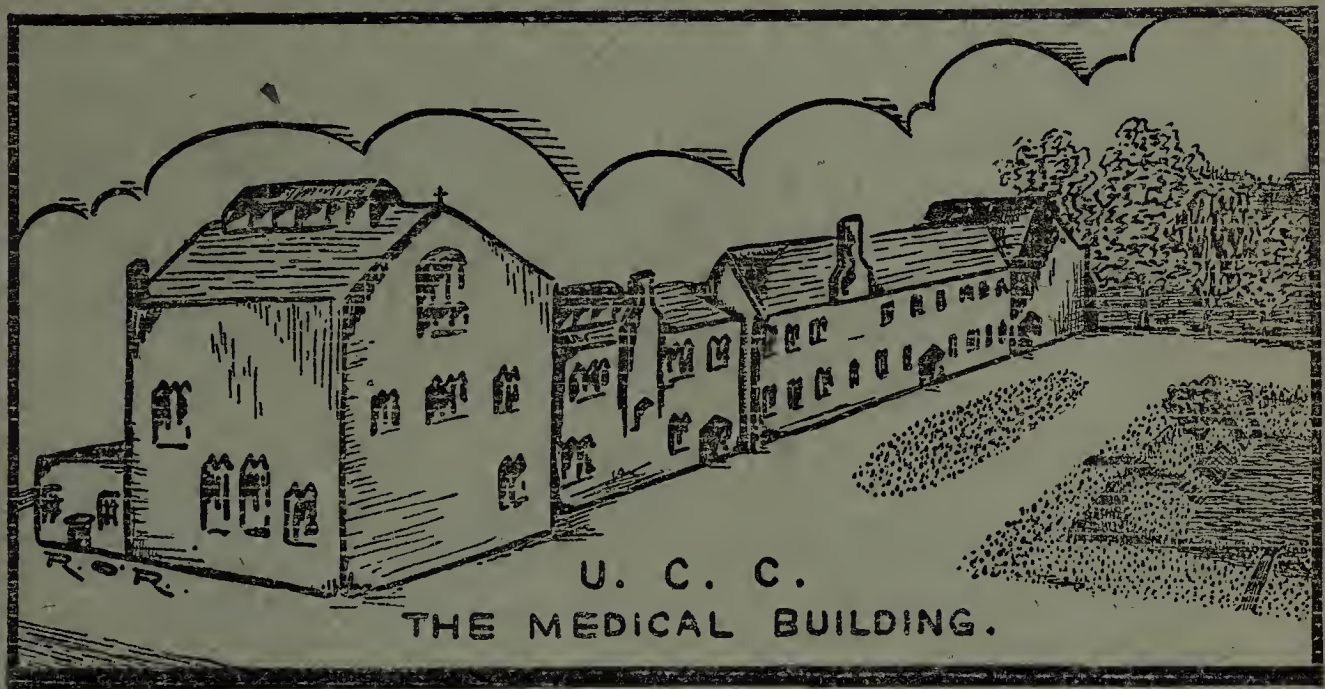


BENJAMIN ALCOCK

*The First Professor of Anatomy and Physiology
in Queen's College, Cork*

By

RONAN O'RAHILLY



CORK UNIVERSITY PRESS
OXFORD: B. H. BLACKWELL, LTD.

1849-1949

In 1849 University College, Cork, began its educational work, under the title of Queen's College, Cork, which it held until 1908. It is proposed to celebrate the centenary year by, *inter alia*, a series of publications dealing not only with the history of the College, but also with Irish education and University problems.

BENJAMIN ALCOCK





Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2019 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b30632535>



View of Queen's (now University) College, Cork,
in 1850

BENJAMIN ALCOCK

*The First Professor of Anatomy and Physiology
in Queen's College, Cork*

By

RONAN O'RAHILLY



CORK UNIVERSITY PRESS
OXFORD: B. H. BLACKWELL, LTD.

1948

*Published by the Cork University Press, University College, Cork.
Dublin Agents: The Standard (1938) Ltd., Pearse Street, Dublin C5
Printed in Ireland by the Eagle Printing Works, Ltd. Cork*

AUTHOR'S NOTE

Much of the material of the following pages has appeared previously in an article of the author's published in the *Irish Journal of Medical Science*, and is reproduced here by permission of the Editor, Mr. W. Doolin, F.R.C.S.I.

The writer wishes to thank all those who replied to his queries, especially Prof. T. P. C. Kirkpatrick (Trinity College, Dublin), Mr. W. Doolin (Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland), Miss J. Dobson (Royal College of Surgeons of England), Mrs. E. Gibbon *née* Alcock (Waterford), Dr. N. S. Alcock (Middlesex), Mrs. L. Alcock and Miss E. C. Alcock (Oxford), Rev. E. J. Alcock (Manchester), Dr. N. G. Alcock (State University of Iowa), Dr. A. O'Rahilly and Miss K. O'Flaherty (University College, Cork).

CONTENTS

| | <i>Page</i> |
|---|-------------|
| KILKENNY | 9 |
| HISTORY OF THE ALCOCK FAMILY | 9 |
| ALCOCK'S BROTHERS AND SISTER | 11 |
| DUBLIN | 12 |
| CORK PRIOR TO ALCOCK | 13 |
| Q. C. C. | 14 |
| CONTEMPORARY STAFF | 16 |
| RESIGNATION | 17 |
| THE MEMORIAL OF 1855 | 17 |
| ANATOMICAL PUBLICATIONS | 21 |
| "ALCOCK'S CANAL". | 21 |
| THOMAS ALCOCK | 23 |
| APPENDIX I: Text of the Letter Addressed to Sir George Grey by Benjamin Alcock, 14th July, 1855. | 25 |
| APPENDIX II: Alcock's Successors. | 30 |
| APPENDIX III: Non-Professorial Staff in Anatomy and Physiology. | 34 |
| REFERENCES | 36 |

BENJAMIN ALCOCK

The following account concerns a prominent anatomist of the last century, who had connections with both Cork and Dublin, and whose name has been associated for many years with eponymous anatomical nomenclature. In presenting the few details now available it is hoped to add a chapter towards the fulfilment of a wish expressed by Macalister (1884) that the details of the history of anatomy in Ireland should be recorded and expanded.

KILKENNY

Benjamin Alcock was born at Kilkenny in May, 1801. His father was Nathaniel Alcock "Medicus" (1767-1832), "a doctor, descended from a long line of doctors," and probably the author of "Dr. Alcock's Case of Monstrosity, with a Plate", a description of a type of thoracopagus which was published in the *Dublin Medical and Physical Essays* (1808) and signed "N. Alcock, Kilkenny, 12 Jan., 1808". Nathaniel Alcock, M.D., was second Mayor of Kilkenny and he married Deborah Prim. Benjamin, who was the youngest member of the family, seems to have had one sister, Deborah, and three brothers, John (Archdeacon of Waterford), Nathaniel (M.B., Dublin, 1832), and Abraham (L.R.C.S.I., 1828; M.D., Glasgow, 1834). The present writer has been in communication with descendants of Nathaniel (Dr. N. S. Alcock) and Abraham (Mrs. E. Gibbon).

Benjamin's grandfather may have been Benjamin Alcock (1737-1821), who married "Sairah" and who may have been an M.D. graduate from Kilcullen (or Kilcollum), Thomastown. There is said to be a headstone in Kilkenny Church "Erected in Memory of Benjamin Alcock, died 1821, age 84".

Mr. W. R. LeFanu (Librarian to the Royal College of Surgeons of England) has informed the writer that he remembers a tablet on the south-east face of Carrigoligan (north Wicklow mountains) inscribed "To the memory of one who worshipped here, Dr. Nathaniel Alcock".

HISTORY OF THE ALCOCK FAMILY

According to notes compiled by the Rev. Joseph Kingsmill (brother to a niece by marriage of Professor Benjamin Alcock), the Alcock family has connections with John Alcock, Bishop of Ely, who founded Jesus College, Cambridge. Bishop Alcock was born at Bromley, Kent (? Beverley, Yorkshire) in 1430. He became

Bishop of Rochester, Worcester, and Ely, Master of the Rolls, Prebendary of St. Paul's, Privy Councillor, and was in high favour with Henry VII. He was a distinguished canonist, an architect of great merit, and his published writings are many. After a virtuous life he died on October 1st, 1500, at Worcester (? Wisbeach Castle) and was buried in his own chapel in Ely Cathedral.

In 1496 Bishop Alcock visited the Priory of St. Rhadegund, Cambridge, occupied by the Black Nuns of St. Benedict. The nunnery had apparently become corrupted (Gray, 1926, p. 71) and Alcock procured the dissolution of the house by royal letters patent from Henry VII. Alcock repaired the building and founded a college dedicated to "the Blessed Virgin Mary, St. John the Evangelist, and St. Rhadegund". In the College he placed a Master, six Fellows, and six Scholars. Thus was founded Jesus College, Cambridge. The refectory became the hall (unusual among Cambridge halls in being upstairs) and is said to be very much as Alcock left it (Stegmann, 1940, p. 62). It is said that the crest of a "Cock" on "All" the Globe can be seen throughout the College buildings; the motto was "Vigila[n]te" and the Coat of Arms three scythes ("for that they were sharp and witty men") a sheaf of corn, and two laurel leaves.

It is of interest to note that in 1515 the Master of Jesus College was named "Thomas Alcock".

Nathan Alcock (1707-1779) was related to Bishop Alcock. He graduated M.D., Leyden, in 1737, lectured on anatomy and chemistry at Oxford, and became a Fellow of the Royal Society and of the College of Physicians. Some of the professors of the medical faculty at Oxford held no classes, and Alcock's teaching raised much opposition among the authorities. He, however, had studied under Albinus in Leyden, and his lucid lectures were attended by a large crowd in Oxford.

According to the Rev. Kingsmill's notes, the Alcock family came from Lancashire and Yorkshire and their graves are to be found scattered in many little churchyards; there is said to be an "Alcock Tarn" near Thirlmere, Cumberland.

The Irish branch has been traced to Nathaniel Alcock (17th century) who came to Ireland from Lancashire in 1628, went back and buried a daughter, returned to Ireland and held the living of Carnagh, near New Ross, County Wexford. He had two daughters; Alice went to England and died in 1655; Jane died in New Ross in the same year.

Next there is reference to Rev. John Alcock who, in 1734, was Vicar of Rosbeccán, New Ross, and possibly of Kilcullen (or Kilcollum), Thomastown.

Alexander Mann Alcock (?1845-1901) was not directly related to Professor Benjamin Alcock's family, it would appear. He qualified L.R.C.S.I. (1869) and lived at Innishannon, Co. Cork. He attended the Annual Meeting of the British Medical Association held in Cork in August, 1879, when Edward Hallaran Bennett

(also from Cork, and since renowned for his description of the fracture-dislocation called after him) was among the numerous distinguished visitors (for an account of the meeting see O'Rahilly, 1947b, and for Bennett's life see O'Rahilly, 1948b). Alexander Alcock married Catherine Hare Mannsell-Eyre (daughter of the Rector of Innishannon and after whose family Eyre Square in Galway was named) and had ten children. One of his sons graduated M.B., B.Ch. (N.U.I.) in 1914. Another son (Rev. E. J. Alcock, Manchester) has informed the writer that his ancestors came to Ireland in 1152 and that the senior branch of the family were the Alcocks of Wilton. The latter had as their arms in 1879 "Arg., a fess, between three cocks' heads, erased, sa.", crest "On a pomeis, charged with a cross patée or, a cock statant, sa.", motto "Vigilate", and seat "Wilton Castle, Enniscorthy". The present writer possesses a family tree of the Wilton Alcocks (Burke: *Landed Gentry*) from 1680 to 1879, and has been in communication with a descendant of the family (Miss E. C. Alcock). Wilton Castle, according to Fleming (1939), was built originally in the 14th century, but in 1695 was bought and rebuilt by William Alcock (1670-1705 or 1706), who gave it the name "Wilton". The last holder was Philip Clayton Alcock (born 1861), for during his absence the castle was burned on 5th March, 1923.

The writer also possesses a genealogical tree of a London branch of the "Alcocke" family in 1633, and an armorial bookplate of "Thomas Alcock" with motto "Vigilans".

The author has been in communication with Dr. Nathaniel Graham Alcock of America, whose father, Anthony Alcock, came from Cornwall but was really Welsh. Dr. N. G. Alcock studied medicine at Northwestern University and has been Professor and Head of the Department of Genito-Urinary Surgery in the State University of Iowa since 1923. No connection with the other Alcock families has as yet been traced and Dr. N. G. Alcock has kindly informed the writer that he was named "Nathaniel" after a friend who was not his blood relation.

ALCOCK'S BROTHERS AND SISTER

(1) John Alcock (1804-1886) became Archdeacon of Waterford. He married Jane Innes and had two offspring. The first was born in 1834 and died in 1837. The second was Deborah (1835-1913), who wrote historical novels and a life of her father. Her biography (*The Author of the Spanish Brothers*) was written by E. Boyd Bayley.

(2) Deborah Alcock married Henry Gore, and their son became Archdeacon Arthur Gore.

(3) Nathaniel Alcock (1805 or 1806-before 1858) graduated M.B., Dublin, in 1832 and practised in Kilkenny. He married Ellen Mooney and had three offspring, Ellen, Margaret and Daniel Robert (1837-1880). The last-named qualified L.A.H., Dublin (1858) and M.R.C.S., England (1859), and lived in Waterford. He became a naval Staff Surgeon and is buried in Kilkenny. He married

Margaret Kingsmill and had two offspring: Daniel Robert (1874-?), a clergyman who had one son, Thomas David, and one daughter, Margaret; Nathaniel Henry (1871-1913), who graduated M.D., Dublin, in 1896. The latter on qualifying became Demonstrator in Anatomy at Victoria University, Manchester. Later he taught Physiology in Dublin and London, becoming a D. Sc. of London University in 1909. Two years later he was appointed Professor of Physiology at McGill University, Montreal. He had been an examiner in Physiology to the National University of Ireland and, in addition to publishing in many scientific periodicals, he was one of the authors of Alcock and Ellison's *Textbook of Experimental Physiology* (Churchill, London, 1909). In 1905 he married Norah Lilian Lepard Scott and had four children. Of his three daughters, one obtained a doctorate in physiology and another the diploma of F.R.C.S., Ed. His son, Nathaniel Scott, became an M.D. of Edinburgh (1944) and M.R.C.P., London (1937) and is a neuropsychiatrist; he has several children.

(4) Abraham Alcock (1806-1884) qualified L.R.C.S.I. (1828) and M.D., Glasgow (1834). He practised in New Ross, County Wexford, married Sara Hartrick and left one son, his other offspring having died. His son, Nathaniel (1839-1904), qualified L.R.C.S.I. in 1859 and became a Lieutenant-Colonel. He married Louisa Dobbryn, and his daughters are Winifred Sarah Elizabeth (connected with the lady almoner work in Dublin), and Eleanora, who married Edward Acton Gibbon and had several children, one of whom was an M.B., Dublin (1930) who died young. Mrs. Gibbon has informed the writer that her father competed in 1876 for a £40 prize offered by the R.A.M.C. (then A.M.S.) authorities for an essay on tuberculosis and that he suggested (from his experience in India) that the disease was infectious, resulting in his essay being described as "the best, but heterodox", and not awarded the prize.

DUBLIN

Benjamin received his primary education in Kilkenny College and subsequently went to Dublin. The writer has been informed that Burtchaell and Sadlier refer to him as "Pensioner (Mr. O'Callaghan), Nov. 4, 1816, aged 15". Three years later he took a scholarship at Trinity College, Dublin.

At Trinity he studied anatomy under James Macartney (Professor of Anatomy and Chirurgery, 1813-1837), that inspiring worker whose "expertness in anatomical pursuits" attracted Sir Charles Bell. On July 3rd, 1819, Alcock was indentured to Abraham Colles (1773-1843), Professor of Anatomy and Surgery in Dublin University from 1804 until 1836, and who also came from Kilkenny. Alcock was apprenticed at a time when Colles had already described the deep layer of the superficial fascia of the perineum (1811), formerly referred to as Colles's fascia, had ligated the subclavian artery for the first time in Ireland (1811), and had reported "On the Fracture of the Carpal Extremity of the Radius" (1814), since

named after him. It is not surprising to find, therefore, that "under that great master he [Alcock] became an accomplished anatomist" (Cameron, 1916).

In 1821 Alcock graduated B.A. He became a Licentiate of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland on June 28th, 1825. He obtained the degree of M.B. at the University of Dublin in 1827, and was elected a Member of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland on November 3rd in the same year. By the supplemental Charter granted to the College of Surgeons on January 4th, 1844, the Members became Fellows. Subsequently Alcock secured the degree of M.D.

In January, 1825, Alcock became Demonstrator of Anatomy (with George Anderson Greene) at the Park Street School, Dublin (1824-1849), where Arthur Jacob was Professor of Anatomy and Physiology. In 1829 we find Alcock's name mentioned in the Second Charter of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland. Among seven applicants for the Chair of Medicine at the College of Surgeons (on the resignation of Sir Henry Marsh) Alcock competed in 1832, but John Kirby was appointed. In 1836 Alcock lectured on anatomy at the Peter Street School and during the next year he became Professor of Anatomy, Physiology, and Pathology in the newly-opened School of the Apothecaries' Hall, Cecilia Street (1837-1854). Here he was succeeded by Joseph Henry Corbett in 1849, in which year Alcock was appointed to Cork.

CORK PRIOR TO ALCOCK

Prior to the existence of Queen's (now University) College, Cork, there appear to have been five medical schools in the city (Cameron, 1916; Fitzgerald, 1945; O'Rahilly, 1948a). These were:

(1) A recognised school established during the 18th century in association with the South Infirmary. Anatomy was taught in a dissecting room on the Old Blackrock Road.

(2) Dissecting Room, Cove Street, 1812-1828, founded by John Woodroffe. In 1828 it was transferred to Warren's Place (see below).

(3) School of Anatomy, Warren's (now Parnell) Place, 1828-1835, founded by John Woodroffe (who taught Anatomy and Physiology himself).

(4) School of Anatomy, Medicine, and Surgery, Warren's (now Parnell) Place, 1835-1844, equipped by James Richard Wherland, L.R.C.S.I. (1836), M.D., Glasgow (1838), the school's Lecturer in Anatomy and Physiology. Wherland's school is said to have had an average roll of ninety students. Dr. D. C. O'Connor, one of the Lecturers in Medicine, later became the first Professor of Medicine at Queen's College.

(5) "Recognised School" of Medicine, South Mall, Cork, 1828-1858 (near the present Eagle Printing Works, No. 90). The school was founded by Henry Augustus Caesar, L.R.C.S., Ed. (1827), M.D., Ed. (1828), F.R.C.S.I. (1844), who was the school's "Professor" and "Lecturer" in Anatomy and Physiology. Other

teachers of these subjects at the school were Mr. R. T. Caesar (Secretary), John James Baylie, M.R.C.S., Eng. (1840), Thomas Crofts Shinkwin, M.R.C.S., Eng. (1850), M.B., Aberdeen (1855), M.D., Q.U.I. (1858), and William Peterson Bernard, L. M., Cork (1854), L.F.P.S. and L. M., Glasgow (1857), L.R.C.P., Ed. (1859). The classes in Practical Anatomy included "an unlimited supply of subjects". This was after the passing of the Anatomy Act (1 August, 1832) ; there appear to be no records available of "body-snatching" in Cork. Dr. J. R. Harvey, a teacher of Medicine at Caesar's school, later became the first Professor of Midwifery at Queen's College. Caesar's school remained in existence until about nine years after the opening of Queen's College.

Q. C. C.

Alcock's appointment as the first Professor of Anatomy and Physiology at Queen's College, Cork, was recorded in the *Lancet* of 1849b as follows :

"Dr. Benjamin Alcock has been appointed professor of anatomy in Queen's College, Cork, *vice* Dr. Carte, who has been obliged to retire, in consequence of ill-health.

Dr. Alcock has been professor of anatomy in the school of medicine, Apothecaries' Hall, Ireland."

The present writer has no information concerning Dr. Carte.

The Faculty of Medicine of Queen's College, Cork, was opened on Thursday, 8th November, 1849, by Dr. Denis Brenan Bullen, Dean of the Faculty and Professor of Surgery. The school at that time contained some 20 or 21 students. In the following year Dr. Nathaniel Joseph Hobart, M.R.C.S., Eng. (1846), M.D., Glasgow, (1847), was appointed Demonstrator to the Professor of "Anatomy, Physiology, and Practical Anatomy" ; during the year of his appointment Dr. Hobart published a case of "False Aneurism of the Thoracic Aorta" (Hobart, 1850).

In the session 1849-1850 the medical course consisted of four years, the details of which follow (*Lancet*, 1849a) :

"Candidates for the degree of M.D., from the Queen's University in Ireland, will be required to pass the matriculation examination prescribed to students in arts, and to pursue the following course of study :

"First Year: The Greek and Latin languages, one session ; the French language, one session ; Chemistry, one session ; Physics, four months.

"Second Year: Descriptive Anatomy, six months ; Practical Anatomy, six months ; Practical Chemistry, three months ; Botany, three months.

"Third Year: Physiology, six months ; Materia Medica, six months ; Practice of Surgery, six months.

"Fourth Year: Practice of Medicine, six months ; Midwifery, six months ; Medical Jurisprudence, six months.

“ In addition to the foregoing classes, candidates for the degree of M.D. will be required to attend a general hospital during twenty-four months, or a general hospital during eighteen months, and a dispensary during six months, and also a course of practical pharmacy for three months.

“ Candidates will be required to attend one-fourth, at the least, of the above classes in some one of the Queen’s Colleges in Ireland, and for the remainder, authenticated certificates will be received from other colleges or medical schools recognised by the senate of the Queen’s University.

“ Students in arts will be admitted to examination for the degree of M.D. two years after having obtained the degree of A.B., provided they shall have completed the curriculum prescribed for the second, third, and fourth medical years.

“ Every candidate, before being admitted to the degree of M.D., will be required to undergo an examination in all the subjects comprehended in the above course of education, and to make a declaration that he is twenty-one years of age.”

In the sessions 1850-1851 and 1851-1852 the subjects taken in the various years were altered as follows :

First Year: Anatomy and Physiology, French or German, Natural Philosophy, Botany.

Second Year: Anatomy and Physiology, Practical Anatomy, Materia Medica, Practical Chemistry.

Third Year: Surgery, Clinical Surgery, Midwifery, Comparative Anatomy.

Fourth Year: Practice of Medicine, Clinical Medicine, Medical Jurisprudence.

From the session 1852-1853 the course was divided into two parts thus :

First and Second Years: Chemistry and Practical Chemistry, Botany and Zoology, Anatomy and Physiology, Practical Anatomy, Materia Medica and Pharmacy.

Third and Fourth Years: Anatomy and Physiology, Theory and Practice of Surgery, Midwifery and Practical Midwifery and Diseases of Women and Children, Theory and Practice of Medicine, Medical Jurisprudence, Practical Pharmacy.

During Alcock’s time as Professor the following were the fees :

| <i>College Fees (including matriculation fee) :</i> | £ | s. | d. |
|---|---|----|----|
| First Year..... | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Each of the Second, Third, and Fourth Years..... | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| For degree of M.D. (exclusive of stamp duty)..... | 5 | 0 | 0 |

The Class Fees (for each subject) included :

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|---|---|---|
| Descriptive Anatomy..... | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Physiology | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Practical Anatomy..... | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Each subsequent course..... | 2 | 0 | 0 |

CONTEMPORARY STAFF

The following were the Professors of the Faculties of Arts and Medicine who were responsible for teaching the first class of medical students of the session 1849-1850 :

President : Sir Robert Kane, F.R.S.

| | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Anatomy and Physiology : | Alcock, Benjamin |
| Chemistry : | Blyth, John |
| Greek Language : | Ryall, John |
| Latin Language : | Lewis, Bunnell |
| Materia Medica : | Fleming, Alex. |
| Medicine : | O'Connor, Denis Charles |
| Midwifery : | Harvey, Joshua Reuben |
| Modern Languages : | De Véricour, Raymond |
| Natural History : | Hincks, Rev. William |
| Natural Philosophy : | Shaw, George Frederick |
| Surgery : | Bullen, Denis Brenan |

Blyth was medically qualified (L.R.C.S.,Ed., 1833; M.D., St. Andrew's, 1838). Of the other medical men, Alexander Fleming, M.D.,Ed. (1844), was born in Edinburgh in 1824. He was President of the Royal Medical Society of Edinburgh, Vice-President of the Parisian Medical Society, and Editor of the "Monthly Journal of Medical Science". He retired from the Chair of Materia Medica in 1857 and went to Birmingham, where he was Physician to the Queen's Hospital. He published articles in the *Dublin Quarterly Journal of Medical Science*, and his college essay at Edinburgh on the "Physiological and Medicinal Properties of *Aconitum Napellus*" (London, 1845) led to the introduction of "Fleming's Tincture of Aconite" or *Tinctura Aconiti Fortis*, B. P. C. He died in London in 1875.

Denis Charles O'Connor, L.R.C.S.I. (1833), M.B., Dublin (1834) M.D. *Hon. Caus.*, Q.U.I. (1879), LL.D., Cantab. (1880), of 2 Camden Place, had taught medicine previously at Wherland's school. He was Physician to the Cork Dispensary and to the Mercy Hospital, and a President of the British Medical Association; at the 47th Annual Meeting of the latter in Cork he read the presidential address (O'Rahilly, 1947b).

Joshua Reuben Harvey, A.B., T.C.D. (1827), M.R.C.S.,Eng. (1828), M.D.,Ed. (1828), taught previously at Caesar's school. He studied in Cork, Dublin, and Edinburgh, and was Physician to the Lying-in Hospital and to the General Dispensary, Cork. In 1878 he presented his avian and mammalian collections to the Queen's College Museum of Natural History in Cork. He published articles in the *Dublin Quarterly Journal of Medical Science*.

Denis Brenan Bullen, M.D. and L.R.C.S.,Ed. (1823), was the first Dean of the Medical Faculty. He was Surgeon to the North Infirmary and Inspector of Anatomy for Munster.

RESIGNATION

Alcock held his Chair at Cork for but a few years, because, owing to disputes concerning the working of the Anatomy Act, he was called upon in December, 1853, by the Earl of St. Germans to resign his professorship on the ground that his remaining in the College "was not beneficial, nor of good example". He resigned in 1854, but on 28th April, 1855, he petitioned the Queen. The matter was referred to the Government in Ireland and the Lord Lieutenant declined to entertain the appeal on the ground that the topics adverted to had already engaged the attention of the Earl of St. Germans. Alcock was dismissed in July, 1855. According to Cameron (1916) "in 1859, being then unmarried, he went to America, and has not since been heard of". He was succeeded in 1854 by Dr. Joseph Henry Corbett of the Apothecaries' Hall, the latter school then closing down. At that time the Cork medical school had 66 students (In the session 1946-47 the figures were 324 medical and 82 premedical students). Corbett, in writing from Patrick's Hill, Cork, to the Editor of the *Lancet* (1856) concerning the remuneration of anatomists, tells us that:

" the professors of anatomy and physiology nominated on the opening of these institutions [Queen's Colleges]—viz., Dr. Alcock [Cork], Dr. Carlyle [Belfast], and Dr. Croker King [Galway], had enjoyed distinguished reputations, and had relinquished lucrative professorships in established schools of medicine in Dublin."

The following list shows the Professors of Anatomy and Physiology at Cork from the opening of the College to the present date; further details are given at the end of this article.

Anatomy and Physiology:

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------|
| Alcock, Benjamin..... | 1849-1854 |
| Corbett, Joseph Henry..... | 1854-1875 |
| Charles, John James..... | 1875-1907 |

Anatomy:

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| Windle, Bertram Coghill Alan..... | 1907-1909 |
| Fitzgerald, Denis Patrick..... | 1909-1942 |
| MacConaill, Michael Aloysius..... | 1942- |

Physiology:

| | |
|--------------------------|-----------|
| Barry, David Thomas..... | 1907-1942 |
| Kane, Frank..... | 1942- |

THE MEMORIAL OF 1855

In an Editorial of the *Dublin Medical Press* of 1855 a Memorial is published addressed by Dr. Alcock (writing from 18 Lower Sherrard Street, Dublin), to the Home Secretary, Sir George

Grey, and a discussion is presented on the question of official authority in cases of dismissal from office of a Professor in a Royal College, "under circumstances, which, as far as the Memorial discloses, do not appear to justify so decided a course". The Editorial continues :

" If a Professor in these Colleges is liable to dismissal at the will of any supreme authority on the assumption that ' his remaining there is not beneficial, nor of good example ', let it be so declared, but let us not be left to infer that he holds his office as long as he performs his duties, and that he cannot be dismissed without trial before some competent tribunal, when he is really subject to such arbitrary power. Does not all this, however, prove that this mingling of the functions of executive government with those of public bodies organized for specific purposes, is, to say the least of it, inconvenient ; for here we have no less a personage than the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland brought into collision, almost personally, with a gentleman who is engaged in a dispute with the parties competent to decide upon it, and compelled to discuss details which he could not by any possibility comprehend. It is surely high time for the Queen's University and Colleges to go alone, and, like all other institutions of a similar nature, to act independently, content to rely upon the substantial support of the Treasury without embarrassing the Government by their claims on its support."

Of the seven alleged reasons for his dismissal Alcock states in his Memorial that " five were first communicated to me only by the same letter which contained the demand for my resignation. Further, those five charges are devoid of good foundation." The seven reasons are summarised below, together with an extract from Alcock's comment on each :

1. That he had complained of want of anatomical subjects and appealed to the Lord Lieutenant to compel persons to furnish subjects.

" I did not appeal to the Lord Lieutenant to compel any body or person to furnish subjects."

2. That he had expressed needless apprehensions as to the obligations of the Anatomy Act.

" Nor had I expressed ' needless apprehensions ' as to the obligations of the Anatomy Act, being supported in my views respecting it by the legal opinion of her Majesty's present Solicitor-General for Ireland."

3. That there could be no difficulty in obtaining a sufficient supply of subjects, as the inspector of anatomy had undertaken to furnish such supply.

" I took advantage at once of the proposal to supply subjects made by the inspector of anatomy."

4. That he had professed reluctance to be a party to a violation of the law, or to expose himself to its penalties ; yet that he was willing to make arrangements, if permitted, which he could not do without recourse to the workhouse, and other public institutions,

having the lawful custody of dead bodies, but which he had objected to being done by others, as a violation of the law.

Alcock claims that the business of the anatomical department had suffered obstruction by proceedings at the poorhouse and that his applications on the subject had been disregarded by the administrative authorities of the College.

5. That there appeared no greater obstruction to carrying out the arrangement which the inspector of anatomy (Prof. O'Connor) suggested for Cork, than at any other anatomical school.

"I avow that I did not concur in or adopt the arrangement for supplying subjects, proposed by Professor O'Connor, and urged for adoption at Cork, in the name of the Earl of St. Germans, by Sir John Young, the chief authority under the Anatomy Act in Ireland. That arrangement was illegal. It involved a misdemeanor ; and its illegality was admitted even by its proposer. It was, that I should obtain subjects from the poorhouse by claiming bodies in the capacity of a friend of the deceased ; upon the impropriety of which it is unnecessary to dwell."

6. That he had instituted a suit at law against the Bursar of the College (Edward M. Fitzgerald).

Alcock explains that this was for the recovery of a part of his fees, in accordance with opinions expressed by legal visitors ; the suit was discontinued because of his Excellency's dissatisfaction.

7. That the tone of his communications toward the Senate of the Queen's University, and the Collegiate authorities, argued little appreciation of the responsibilities of his own position.

Alcock submitted that it was not improper to appeal to her Majesty's representative against the course taken by the Senate of the University and the administrative authorities of the College. Alcock next expresses reasons for his dissatisfaction at his treatment in the College ; for example :

"I complain—That my position and rights as a Professor of the Queen's College were illegally and vexatiously assailed, and great pecuniary loss inflicted upon me ; that I have been condemned upon groundless allegations not communicated to me until I had been condemned ; and that my solicitation for an opportunity fully to vindicate myself has been disregarded. That her Majesty's statute (c. iv. s. 12) has been repeatedly violated by the President of the College [Sir Robert Kane, M.D., F.R.S.], preferring grave charges against me to her Majesty and her executive, without communicating them to me, and without notice as required by the statute, and my appeals to the Earl of St. Germans, complaining of such violations of statute, were disregarded." For Kane's difficulties with other professors in the College and complaints concerning his residing outside Cork, see "Sir Robert Kane" by Dr. Wheeler (1945). It is interesting to note that Prof. Bullen (mentioned earlier in the present article in connection with the opening of the Medical Faculty in Cork) was withdrawn from office due to his accusing Kane of misconduct regarding the fire which occurred at

Queen's College, Cork, in May, 1862. For an account of Bullen's disagreements with Kane see the *Lancet* of 1864. Alcock, after listing his grievances against the conduct of the President, complains:

"That the decision of the Council (under statute the governing body of the College), adopted 31st of January, 1854, respecting the most proper arrangement for supplying the Queen's College with anatomical subjects, and by which my course has been justified, was set at nought; and the decision of the Senate of the University, who are by charter precluded from exercising control 'in any way' over the College further than as regards regulations for qualifications for degrees, has been made to supersede it." Later he says:

"I complain that the obligations of the Anatomy Act were misrepresented by her Majesty's executive—viz., that the being duly licensed to practise anatomy exempts professors or others from the penalties imposed by the Act, for having dead human bodies in their possession, whether obtained according to the provisions of the Act or not: and I complain that an arrangement for obtaining subjects, which was admitted by its author to be illegal, and which involved the commission of a misdemeanor, received sanction from the Earl of St. Germans, and the non-adoption of it was made a ground of my condemnation."

Thus did Alcock complain in vain against what he considered to be a miscarriage of justice; Cameron (1916) tells us "he considered that he was badly treated by the authorities, and published a pamphlet upon the subject of his grievances". A copy of this pamphlet is kept in the Library of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland; it consists of his Memorial to Sir George Grey together with a number of additional footnotes elaborating some of the points discussed in his letter. It was printed by J. Charles, Middle Abbey Street, Dublin.

It is difficult now to reach a fair appraisal of the situation, but it must be mentioned that Alcock's career in Cork was characterised by a series of disputes, and from the Council Minutes of the College it would seem that the Lord Lieutenant acted in accordance with the wishes of the Council. According to the Minutes of 1851 Alcock lodged an unfounded complaint (of unspecified nature) against the Dean of the Medical Faculty (Prof. Fleming, who has been mentioned previously). Furthermore, "the President brought under the notice of the Council an address made by the Professor of Anatomy to his Class which had been posted in the case for Medical Notices in the Clarendon Building". The nature of the notice was not specified but the Council judged it to be "calculated to injure discipline in the College" (Council Minutes of 2 Dec., 1851). Also he disputed with Council as to whether the fees for the classes in Practical Anatomy should provide for departmental expenses (as Council desired) or should go to the Professor (as Alcock wished); regarding the last point, however, the Visitors

at the Triennial Visitation* (May, 1852) gave a decision in favour of Alcock, *i.e.* that he was entitled to retain the fees. According to the Minutes, the Department of Anatomy was in a disorganised state "due to the course taken by Professor Alcock" (President Kane, Minutes of 22 Nov., 1853) and it would appear that on at least one occasion the President received complaints from the students concerning the Department (Minutes of 16 Nov., 1852).

The full text of Alcock's Memorial is given as an Appendix to this paper.

ANATOMICAL PUBLICATIONS

Alcock was one of the contributors to *The Cyclopaedia of Anatomy and Physiology*, a work in six volumes edited by Robert B. Todd, M.D., F.R.S., F.R.C.P., and published in London between 1835 and 1859. According to Macalister (1884) the writers of the *Cyclopaedia* displayed "a thorough lack of originality". He says, however, that the articles "all deal with subjects of common dissecting-room anatomy, and, except perhaps those of Alcock, they never rise above the manual level; the references to comparative anatomy are borrowed, and the embryological paragraphs are of the crudest and most antiquated; in neither respect are they abreast of the knowledge of their own date".

Alcock wrote the articles on the "Femoral Artery", the "Fifth Pair of Nerves", the "Fourth Pair of Nerves", and the "Iliac Arteries". According to Cameron (1916) "his observations on the Non-Ganglionic Portion of the Fifth Pair of Nerves were original; they were confirmed and extended by Guyot and Casales, and reported to the Academy of Medicine, Paris, in 1839".

"ALCOCK'S CANAL"

It is in the section on the iliac arteries, however, that we find Alcock's chief claim to fame, namely, the original description of

*The objects of these Visitations were summarised in the *British Medical Journal* (1899) as follows:

"In the charter granted to the Queen's Colleges in Ireland provision was made for the holding of visitations by a Board of Visitors, whose chief office is to inquire into the working of the Colleges, as well as to consider and decide regarding grievances which may be preferred before them by students or officers of the Colleges against the ordinances made by the College authorities."

The *Journal's* correspondent then laments the lack of attention by the British Government to their responsibilities towards the Colleges in not enabling a Chair of Pathology to be established in Cork, a petition for which had been made by the students but declined by the Board of Visitors at their Visitation in 1899; the Lectureship in Pathology (held by Arthur Edward Moore, now Emeritus Professor) was not replaced by a Chair until eleven years later. A similar delay occurred in the separation of the Chair of Anatomy and Physiology into two Chairs; it was recommended by President William Kirby Sullivan (Kane's successor) in 1886 but did not take place until twenty-one years later.

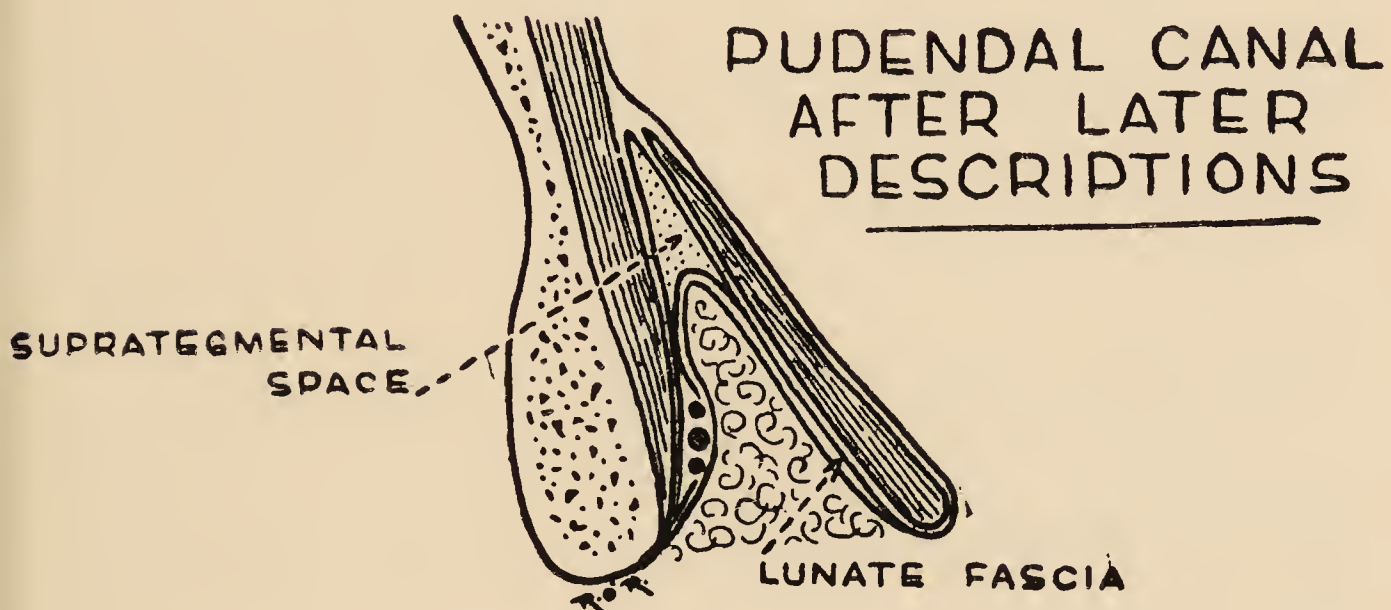
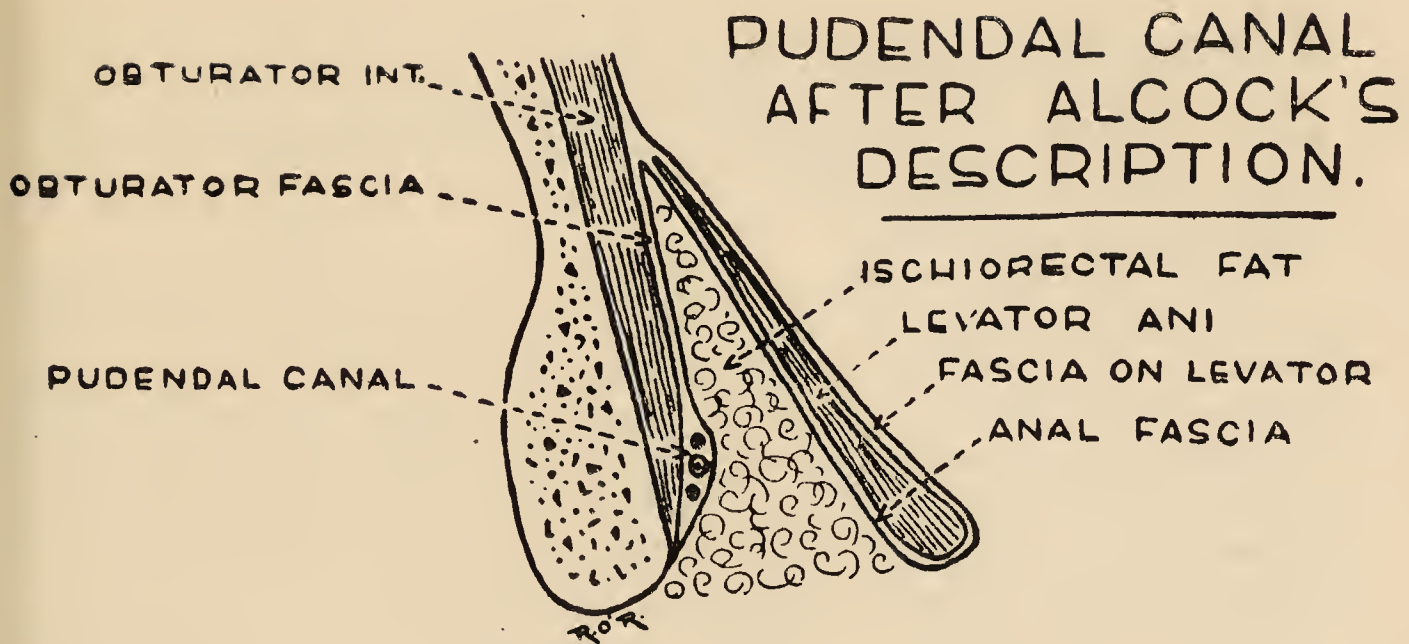
“Alcock’s canal”. The canal was not referred to in the *Basle Nomina Anatomica*, 1895 (see, for example, Emmel, 1927) nor in the *Jena Nomina anatomica*, 1935 (see Kopsch, 1941), but was renamed the “Pudendal canal (*Canalis pudendalis*)”, “after its contained vessels”, in the *Birmingham Revision*, 1933.

The following is an extract from the original description of the *Canalis pudendalis* in Todd’s *Cyclopaedia* (1836-1839), Volume 2, Page 835:

“In a canal in the obturator fascia the artery [internal pudendal] is contained through the posterior part of the third [perineal] stage; by some it is maintained to be between the fascia and the muscle, in a sort of canal formed internally [medially] by the fascia, externally [laterally] by the muscle and tuberosity, and inferiorly by the great sciatic [sacrotuberous] ligament; but this is not correct; the vessel being in the fascia, and not external [lateral] to it; the line of its course is convex downward, about an inch and a half from the under surface of the tuberosity of the ischium at its most depending part, and from two to two and a half inches from the surface, this distance varying of course according to the condition of the subject; the line approaches the margin of the ramus or the spinous process, thence forward or backward.”

Alcock described the canal as being “in the obturator fascia”; later workers modified this description. Derry (1907, p. 109) found a further fascial layer which he named the “fascia lunata”. This he described as: “a very dense crescentic mass of fibrous tissue which covers in the lowest, most ventral portion of the obturator internus muscle. This structure, which I have called the *fascia lunata*, is actually that part of the obturator fascia which forms the outer [lateral] wall of the ischio-rectal fossa, and encloses the pudic vessels and nerve [internal pudendal vessels and pudendal nerve] in a sheath usually known as Alcock’s canal”. The fascia lunata is attached to the inferior border of the pubic symphysis, the ischial spine, the sheath of the coccygeus, the falciform process of the sacrotuberous ligament, the perineal membrane, and the sheaths of obturator internus and levator ani.

According to Elliott Smith (1908, p. 199): “It is not correct to describe Alcock’s canal as formed by the splitting of the obturator fascia. It consists of an investment of fibrous tissues which has nothing to do with the sheath of the obturator internus muscle, and is attached to the neighbouring bony and ligamentous structures quite independently of it. It often happens (in the case of the human pelvis) that the fascia lunata becomes attached to the surface of the sheath of the obturator internus, but this does not always happen”. Furthermore, (p. 204), although “the term ‘Alcock’s canal’ is usually restricted to that part of the fascia lunata which forms part of the wall of the ischio-rectal fossa” nevertheless in the urogenital region also the fascia lunata forms a sheath for the internal pudendal vessels and pudendal nerve.



CORONAL SECTIONS through the *Canalis Pudendalis*. The Fascial layers are depicted in white.

THOMAS ALCOCK

It has been pointed out by Dobson (1946) that the common ascription of the pudendal canal to Thomas Alcock, M.D., is incorrect; this error is to be found in most dictionaries e.g., those of Gould (1941), Dorland (1944), and Stedman (1946), and also in Eycleshymer's work on terminology (1917). Thomas Alcock was born at Rothbury, Northumberland, in 1784. He was apprenticed to a Newcastle Surgeon and became Resident Medical Officer of the Sunderland Dispensary in 1805. The name of Thomas Alcock, Apothecary, 1804, is in the records of the Royal Infirmary, Sunder-

land. An Apothecary, we are told, served an apprenticeship of five to six years, attended a course of lectures on medicine, anatomy, and surgery in London or Edinburgh, had to be acquainted with hospital practice and of good moral character. In 1806 the Apothecary of the Sunderland Dispensary was allowed 9/- a week for boarding his apprentice.

Later Alcock went to London, where he practised at 11 New Burlington Street, W.1., and gave lectures at his house. He was Surgeon to St. James's Workhouse from 1813 until 1828. Although he was the author of numerous papers in medical journals he has no claim to be considered as an anatomist. He died in 1833. A painting of Thomas Alcock by Benjamin Haydon (1784-1846) was presented to the Royal College of Surgeons of England by his daughter-in-law, Lady Alcock, in June, 1898.

His son was Sir Rutherford Alcock (1809-1897), F.R.C.S., a surgeon who lived at 30 Old Queen Street, London, S.W.1. He had lived in China, Japan, Portugal, and many other places, was President of the Royal Geographical Society in 1876 and wrote *Art in Japan*. He had been a student of King's College, London.

APPENDIX I.

Text of the Letter Addressed to Sir George Grey
by Benjamin Alcock, M.D., 14th July, 1855.
(Reproduced by permission of the *Medical Press*,
London).

Sir,

I have had the honour to receive by your direction, letters informing me that my memorial of the 28th April ult., addressed to her Majesty, had been referred by her command to the government in Ireland, and that the Lord Lieutenant had declined to entertain it, on the ground that the several topics adverted to therein had already engaged the attention of the Earl of St. Germans, and that his Excellency sees no ground for further investigation of the questions involved. I beg leave, sir, respectfully to state that my memorial contained, what I had not before preferred, a complaint against the administration of the Earl of St. Germans. I charge the administration of the Earl of St. Germans with having invaded the constitution of the Queen's College—with having misrepresented the Anatomy Act—with having countenanced and urged a mode of obtaining anatomical subjects, admitted by its author to be illegal—with having given official sanction to a practice which might perhaps, lead to a renewal, within public institutions, of the crime which the anatomy act was enacted to suppress, and with having by such instrumentality made a case on which I was obliged by the Earl of St. Germans to resign my professorship in her Majesty's College, Cork.

I take leave now, sir, to address to you an abstract from my memorial, with some necessary explanation and amplification, and I venture to hope that you will be satisfied of the justice of my complaint.

In December, 1853, I was called upon by the Earl of St. Germans to resign my professorship in her Majesty's College, on the ground, "that my remaining in the College was not beneficial, nor of good example." The reasons assigned (which I take unreservedly from the official letter) are—1. That I had complained of want of anatomical subjects, and appealed to the Lord Lieutenant, knowing that his Excellency had no power to compel any body or person to furnish subjects for anatomical examination, and that there are no means of procuring such subjects by compulsion. 2. That I had expressed needless apprehensions as to the obligations of the Anatomy Act. 3. That there could be no difficulty in obtaining a sufficient supply of subjects, as the Inspector of Anatomy had undertaken to furnish such supply. 4. That I had professed reluctance to be a party to a violation of the law, or to expose myself to its penalties; yet that I was willing to make arrangements, if permitted, which I could not do without recourse to the workhouse, and other public institutions, having the lawful custody of dead bodies, but which I had objected to being done by others, as a violation of the law. 5. That there appeared no greater obstruction

to carrying out the arrangement which the inspector of anatomy (Prof. O'Connor) suggests for the supply at Cork, than at any other anatomical school. 6. That I had instituted a suit at law against the bursar of the College. 7. That my communications on the subject of my duties, and the tone adopted in my memorial toward the Senate of the Queen's University, and the collegiate authorities, argued little appreciation of the responsibilities of my own position, or regard for the peace and harmony of the institution.

Of those seven allegations being, so far as I know, the entire of the specific charges made against me, five were first communicated to me only by the same letter which contained the demand for my resignation. Further, those five charges are devoid of good foundation. I did not appeal to the Lord Lieutenant to compel any body or person to furnish subjects ; nor had I objected to any one having recourse legally to the poorhouse or any other institution for subjects. As Queen's Professor, I felt it my duty to abide by her Majesty's statutes—to conform to the provisions of the Anatomy Act—to promote facilities for the practice of anatomy—and to uphold the position of the office entrusted to me. The anatomical department of the Queen's College had suffered repeated interruptions in the supply of subjects. I complained to the Lord Lieutenant that the business of the department was obstructed by proceedings at the poorhouse, and that the administrative authorities of the College (whose function and duty under statute it was to make regulations for the supply of subjects, as part of the administration of the College), had disregarded my application on the subject. And I appealed to the Earl of St. Germans, by letter, October 17, 1853, "that your Excellency will be pleased to order such measures to be taken, as shall be in accordance with the charter and statutes of the College, to remove the embarrassment of this department." Same time, I expressed my willingness to charge myself with the arrangements, if it were his Excellency's pleasure, and if I were furnished with the necessary authority, and suitable appointments. Nor had I expressed "needless apprehension" as to the obligations of the Anatomy Act, being supported in my views respecting it by the legal opinion of her Majesty's present Solicitor-General for Ireland. I took advantage at once of the proposal to supply subjects made by the inspector of anatomy, and referred to with approbation by the Earl of St. Germans, although I have been condemned, as it would seem, for the disregard of it. I avow that I did not concur in or adopt the arrangement for supplying subjects, proposed by Professor O'Connor, and urged for adoption at Cork, in the name of the Earl of St. Germans, by Sir John Young, the chief authority under the Anatomy Act in Ireland. That arrangement was illegal. It involved a misdemeanor ; and its illegality was admitted even by its proposer. It was, that I should obtain subjects from the poorhouse by claiming bodies in the capacity of a friend of the deceased ; upon the impropriety of which it is unnecessary to dwell

Such, sir, were five of the allegations upon which the Earl of St. Germans concluded that my remaining in the College was not beneficial, nor of good example.

As to the two remaining charges—I instituted suit against the bursar for the recovery of part of my fees, in accordance with opinions expressed, in my own case, by the legal visitors, the Lord Chancellor and Baron Green, at the late visitation—viz., that my proper remedy was a proceeding at law against the bursar, and that, as there was a direct legal remedy, the case was not fit for an appeal to visitors. It is to be added that I had been subjected to enormous expense by the appeal to visitors ; and that the suit was discontinued because of his Excellency's dissatisfaction. I should deeply lament to have offered disrespect to the Senate of the University, or to the administrative authorities of the College ; but I submit, it was not improper that I should appeal to her Majesty's representative, against the course taken by those bodies toward myself, in disregard of her Majesty's pleasure, as expressed in her charters and statutes.

It is true, sir, that I have ventured to complain, and I do complain of the treatment experienced by me in her Majesty's College.

I complain—

That my position and rights as a professor of the Queen's College were illegally and vexatiously assailed, and great pecuniary loss inflicted upon me.

That I have been condemned upon groundless allegations not communicated to me until I had been condemned ; and that my solicitation for an opportunity fully to vindicate myself has been disregarded.

That her Majesty's statute (c. iv. s. 12) has been repeatedly violated by the President of the College, preferring grave charges against me to her Majesty and her Executive, without communicating them to me, and without notice as required by the statute, and my appeals to the Earl of St. Germans, complaining of such violations of statute, were disregarded.

That I have been visited as *the* cause of the dissensions in the College, notwithstanding that in 1852, the visitors affirmed my appeal against the President and Council of the College—notwithstanding that in March, 1853, the Council (the governing body of the College) presented to her Majesty a memorial complaining of the conduct of the President—his indignities to the Council and its members—his obstruction to the administration of the College—the detriment to the interests of the students—his disputes with the Professors, and his claims subversive of the constitution and purposes of the Colleges ; and, notwithstanding that I had laid before her Majesty's Executive proof that I had been assailed even libellously in the College.

That the parliamentary report of the proceedings of the College was used by the President to convey to her Majesty, without notice to me, a grave and unfounded charge against me ; and when I

appealed to the Earl of St. Germans against such violation of her Majesty's statute, I received from Colonel Larcom the reply, "that the Lord Lieutenant does not feel called upon to express his opinion on, or to weigh nicely the precise words of, a report addressed to her Majesty by a public officer in the full and proper exercise of his responsibility and discretion !"

That in the same report, submitted to her Majesty by the President, to be laid before parliament, the fundamental and most objectionable of the resolutions of the Council of the College, against which I had successfully appealed to visitors, has been suppressed ; whereby the proceedings of the triennial visitation have been falsified, and the object of my appeal, as well as the conduct of the administrative authorities of the College, placed in a false point of view. Perhaps *this* may be regarded by Colonel Larcom as a "proper exercise of responsibility and discretion".

That the decision of the Council (under statute the governing body of the College), adopted 31st of January, 1854, respecting the most proper arrangement for supplying the Queen's College with anatomical subjects, and by which my course has been justified, was set at nought ; and the decision of the Senate of the University, who are by charter precluded from exercising control "in any way" over the College further than as regards regulations for qualifications for degrees, has been made to supersede it.

That the Senate of the University presented to the Lord Lieutenant a representation, incorrect as to the fact, respecting the manner of supplying subjects for dissection ; and upon that incorrect representation they based their plan for the Queen's College.

I complain that the impartiality of the visitorial office was in effect compromised by the course taken, and that I was thereby debarred an appeal to the visitors of the College. Members of the Senate were visitors of the College ; and in appealing I must have appealed to the same personages to decide judicially as visitors, upon questions which, as Senators, they must be understood to have prejudged.

I complain that the obligations of the Anatomy Act were misrepresented by her Majesty's Executive—viz., that the being duly licensed to practise anatomy exempts professors or others from the penalties imposed by the act, for having dead human bodies in their possession, whether obtained according to the provisions of the act or not.

And I complain that an arrangement for obtaining subjects, which was admitted by its author to be illegal, and which involved the commission of a misdemeanor, received sanction from the Earl of St. Germans, and the non-adoption of it was made a ground of my condemnation.

I would beg leave, in conclusion, to explain the circumstances alluded to in my memorial to her Majesty, as having caused the delay of my appeal. Previous to my resignation, the Earl of St. Germans was pleased, with great courtesy, to authorise a friend,

in my behalf, to convey to me an expression of most favourable sentiments, the sincerity of which I did not allow myself to question, and but for which I should certainly not have given my resignation. On the fall of the Government of the Earl of Aberdeen, I solicited from the Earl of St. Germans, before his departure from Ireland, permission to avail myself of the favourable sentiments which he had been pleased to express—as a shield against the consequences entailed upon me by my separation from the Queen's College. His Lordship was pleased to honour me with a reply, in which, omitting to notice the sentiments referred to, he has thought proper to affix an additional stigma upon me. His Lordship having thus cancelled the obligation of his courtesy, my sense of which I had taken care to express, I am left to work out my own vindication: and, sir, I now confidently leave to your unbiased judgment to say, to whom, in this matter, the stigma of “unfitness for the duties which belonged to your office” with most propriety attaches?

I have the honour to remain, sir,

Your obedient humble servant,

Benjamin Alcock

18, Lower Sherrard Street, Dublin,

July 14th, 1855.

APPENDIX II.

ALCOCK'S SUCCESSORS

Joseph Henry Corbett

Little is known about Alcock's immediate successor, Joseph Henry Corbett. He was born in 1813 and qualified M.D.Ed. (1835), L.R.C.S.I. (1836), and M.D., Q.U.I. (1856). He was on the staff of the Dublin General Dispensary, was Lecturer in Anatomy and Physiology at the School of Medicine, Cecilia Street, Dublin, and was Professor of Anatomy and Physiology to the Apothecaries' Hall of Ireland. The latter school closed in 1854 when Corbett was appointed to the Chair at Q.C.C. Prof. Pearson (1927), in his reminiscences of his student days in the session 1873-74, tells us:

"In those days the subjects of anatomy and physiology were combined under one professor and the course of lectures in the first year consisted of an account of the anatomy of the parts, such as the heart or digestive organs, before dealing with a description of their functions. The anatomy lectures were illustrated in a beautiful way by artistic dissections made by the professor himself, Joseph Henry Corbett. He was an eloquent and impressive lecturer, and I was especially fascinated by his treatment of his subjects and obtained a fair knowledge of visceral anatomy before I entered on dissection in my second year."

Corbett's chief Demonstrator was Henry Macnaughton-Jones, M.D., Q.U.I. (1864), F.R.C.S.Ed. (1866), F.R.C.S.I. (1870), M.A.O. *Hon. Caus.*, later Professor of Midwifery, Q.C.C. (1878-1883); he was born in Cork in 1845, went to Harley Street on his resignation, and died in 1918. Macnaughton-Jones wrote several books on otology and gynaecology, and was closely associated for many years with the Cork medical school.

Corbett (1852) published a book on "*The Descriptive and Surgical Anatomy of the Arteries, and Relative Anatomy of the Veins and Nerves of the Human Body*". The work was dedicated to the surgical students of Ireland and it is of interest to notice (on page 264 of the book) that Corbett, in his description of the internal pudendal artery, makes no reference to the pudendal canal described by his predecessor.

Corbett died in 1875 (?1878) and was succeeded by Charles.

John James Charles

John James Charles, the eldest son of David Hughes Charles, M.D., Glasgow (1843), J.P., was born in Co. Tyrone in 1845. He was a student at Queen's College, Belfast, and graduated M.D., Q.U.I. (1865), M.A. (1868), L.R.C.S.Ed. (1871), D.Sc. *Hon. Caus.* (1882). He studied also in Glasgow, London, Edinburgh,

Paris, Bonn and Berlin. He lectured on Anatomy in Edinburgh and Belfast, and was appointed to the Chair at Q.C.C. in 1875.

Charles supervised the work of the dissecting room but concentrated mainly on Physiology. He stressed the value of slow and careful dissections. Never late, he gave concise but clear lectures. "His unfortunate manner" (as Prof. Hartog, the late Professor of Zoology, described it) made him unpopular with the students, and towards the idle members of the class he was witheringly sarcastic. Prof. Fitzgerald (1947) among his reminiscences tells us that "the Professor gave only some 12 lectures in Anatomy during a Session, the remainder amounting to nearly 100 devolved on the Demonstrator who had to spend from 6 to 8 hours daily in the Dissecting Room, furnish weekly reports on the attendances of the students, arrange for the supply of dissections, etc. etc."

Charles married a second time and Prof. Fitzgerald never succeeded in dissuading the laboratory attendant from believing that the locked trunk which Charles kept in his room contained "the articulated skeleton of the Professor's first wife"! Charles was a member of the Church of Ireland. He died of cardiac failure in 1912. He had published many papers in the *Journal of Anatomy and Physiology* and other periodicals. He endowed the College with a fund to provide a Gold Medal to be awarded alternately in Anatomy and Physiology, and since called the "Charles Medal". Major-General Sir Havelock Henry Richard Charles was his brother, and was Professor of Anatomy at Lahore and Calcutta (see O'Rahilly, 1948c).

For further details concerning J. J. Charles see Q.C.C. (1907a), U.C.C. *Official Gazette* (1912), and Sperrin-Johnson (1946).

Bertram Coghill Alan Windle

Sir Bertram Windle was the son of Rev. S. A. Windle, B.D. (Vicar of Market Rasen, Lincolnshire) and Sydney Katherine, daughter of Admiral Sir Josiah Coghill, Bart., of Co. Cork. He was born in 1858 at Mayfield Vicarage. He was educated in Dublin and Derbyshire, and graduated B.A. (1879) and M.B., M.Ch. (1881) at Trinity College, Dublin. In later life he obtained the degrees of M.A., M.D., Ph.D., LL.D., D.Sc., and became a Fellow of the Royal Society.

After graduation Windle lectured on Botany at Queen's College, Dublin, and demonstrated Anatomy at the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland. In 1881 he went to Birmingham General Hospital as Pathologist and two years later became Professor of Anatomy at Queen's College, Birmingham. In the same year Windle became a Catholic. In 1900 Birmingham University was granted a Charter and Windle became Professor of Anatomy and Dean of the Medical Faculty. He was also Professor of Anatomy to the Birmingham Royal Society of Artists. He was an Examiner in Anatomy to the Universities of Cambridge, Aberdeen, Glasgow, and Durham, and to the Royal College of Physicians, London, and to the Royal

College of Surgeons in Ireland. He was a Member of the General Medical Council, and twice Vice-President of the Anatomical Society of Great Britain and Ireland.

In 1904 Windle became President of Q.C.C. On the resignation of Prof. Charles in 1907 Windle separated Anatomy and Physiology, and took the Chair of Anatomy himself. Two years later he resigned and became Professor of Archaeology for the next five years. In 1919 he resigned from the Presidency and went to Canada. He became Professor of Anthropology at St. Michael's College, Toronto, and later Professor of Ethnology to the University of Toronto. In 1929 he died from bronchopneumonia in Toronto, aged 71.

Windle wrote profusely on comparative anatomy, teratology, archaeology, religion, and many other subjects. His *Handbook of Surface Anatomy and Landmarks* (1888) reached a third edition in 1902.

For further details see Q.C.C. (1905), U.C.C. *Official Gazette* (1920), the *Quarryman* (1929), and Taylor (1932).

David Thomas Barry

D. T. Barry, Emeritus Professor of Physiology, was born at Ballyannahan, Co. Cork. He graduated M.B., R.U.I. (1894) and then entered general practice in England for some years, during which period he attended the University of Liverpool. Next he spent some time in London, Berlin, and Heidelberg, working with Starling, Waldeyer and Kopsch. He secured the degree of M.D., R.U.I. (1903), and D.P.H. Liverpool (1904).

In 1907 Dr. Barry obtained the new Chair of Physiology at Q.C.C. In this year also he became a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of England. After his appointment in Cork he persisted in his efforts to obtain a department completely separate from that of anatomy, as previously practical physiology had been carried out in a room near the dissecting room. Within a few years a physiological laboratory had been opened on the ground floor of the medical building. Later a histological laboratory was added and places for biochemistry and experimental physiology were mapped out.

Prof. Barry went periodically to France, where he did research at the Laboratoires Maritimes de Dinard, the Institut Marey, Boulogne-sur-Seine, the Sorbonne, and other schools. He had obtained the degree of D.Sc., N.U.I., in 1918, and in 1929 he was awarded the title of Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur.

For some years Prof. Barry devoted much time to the making of abstracts for the monthly publication *Physiological Abstracts*. His chief researches were connected with cardiac perfusion and electrocardiography but his writings cover a wide field of physiology and he is the author of many papers in the *Journal of Physiology*, *Lancet*, *Archives Internationales de Pharmacodynamie*, *Comptes Rendus de la Société de Biologie*, *Irish Journal of Medical Science*, and other periodicals.

Prof. Barry was noted as a player of chess, bridge, squash and golf. He will always be remembered by his many students as an enthusiastic investigator and valuable friend. Prof. and Mme. Barry are living in London at present.

For further particulars see *Q.C.C.* (1907) and O'Rahilly (1945).

In 1942 Prof. Barry was succeeded by Prof. F. Kane, the present holder of the Chair of Physiology at U.C.C.

Denis Patrick Fitzgerald

D. P. Fitzgerald, Emeritus Professor of Anatomy, was born and educated in Cork. He obtained the degree of B.A., R.U.I., in 1890, and entered Q.C.C. as a medical student in the following year. After a successful course, during which he secured scholarships, exhibitions, and prizes, he qualified M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O. in 1896. In the following year he became Demonstrator in Anatomy (a post which he held for ten years), and House Surgeon to the Cork Eye, Ear and Throat Hospital (for two years). In 1898 he read a communication at the 66th Annual Meeting of the British Medical Association held in Edinburgh ; on this occasion papers were given also by D. J. Cunningham and A. Birmingham (both from Dublin), J. Symington (Belfast), and R. J. Anderson (Professor of Biology in Galway.)

On the resignation of Professor Charles in 1907 important changes took place in the Medical School. President Windle separated Anatomy from Physiology, and became Professor of Anatomy himself. As he had to spend much time in Dublin in connection with the establishment of the N.U.I. he appointed Dr. Fitzgerald as his deputy ; for this purpose he made him Lecturer in Anatomy as he had decided to resign the Chair in his favour, which he did two years later. Professor Fitzgerald held the Chair of Anatomy for nearly 33 years and during this time was Lecturer in Anatomy to the Cork Municipal School of Art. He has also been Dean of the Medical Faculty, Member of the General Board of Studies, N.U.I., and Senate, N.U.I., and of the Governing Body, U.C.C. He was Examiner in Anatomy to the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland. In 1940 he was awarded the degree of M.D., N.U.I.

In addition to publications in the *Journal of Anatomy* and the *British Medical Journal*, Prof. Fitzgerald has written on the history of Old Cork, for his knowledge of which he is noted. Prof. Fitzgerald will always be remembered by his numerous students for what Prof. T. Dillon describes as his "quiet, gentle manners".

See also *Q.C.C.* (1908) and the *Cork University Record* (1945).

In 1942 Prof. Fitzgerald was succeeded by Prof. M. A. MacConaill, the present holder of the Chair of Anatomy at U. C. C.

The writer regrets to record that Professor Fitzgerald died on 2nd January, 1948, in Cork, aged nearly 77 years (See O'Rahilly, R. : *British Medical Journal* (1948) 1, 17th Jan., 128).

APPENDIX III.

NON-PROFESSORIAL STAFF IN ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY

Q.C.C. (Incorporated 1845, opened 1849) and U.C.C. (1908-).

Lecturer in Osteology:

Fitzgerald, Denis Patrick, 1907-1909.

Assistants in Anatomy:

O'Connor, William Francis, 1918-1923.

Henley, Francis John, 1923-1932.

Kiely, Patrick, 1923-1934.

Hamilton, William Dundon, 1932-

Donovan, Edmond, 1934-

Kelly, John, 1943-

Demonstrators in Anatomy:

Hobart, Nathaniel Joseph, 1849-1852.

Donegan, Stephen, 1852-?1854.

Shinkwin, Thomas Crofts, 1854-1855.

(Names from 1855 to 1872 not available, except Macnaughton-Jones, Henry, 1864-?1874).

Leach P., 1872-1873.

Moran, James, 1873-1874.

Corby, Henry, 1874-1875.

Jennings, Dr., 1874-1877.

Magile, Dr., 1875-1876.

Pearson, Charles Yelverton, 1876 (?1878)-1884.

Barry, Daniel Francis, 1877-1878.

Tanner, Charles Kearns Deane, 1877-1880.

Tuohy, John F., 1878-1879.

Allport, Henry K., 1879-1880.

Magner, Edward, 1880-1881.

Cotter, Jeremiah, 1880-1888.

Swanton, James Hutchinson, 1883-1884.

Hosford, Benjamin, 1884-1885.

Adams, Frederick Edward, 1885-1886.

Bradley, James, 1886-1887.

Mahon, Ralph B., 1887-1888.

Ryan, Joseph Valentine, 1888-1889.

Wolfe, John W. 1889-1890.

Steen, James R. 1890-1891.

O'Sullivan, Patrick Thomas, 1891-1892.

Scott, William, 1892-1893.

McMath, William, 1893-1894.

O'Meara, Timothy J., 1894-1895.

McArdle, Andrew A. F., 1895-1896.

McKeown, W. J., 1896-1897.
 Fitzgerald, Denis Patrick, 1897-1907.
 Torpey, John, 1900-1901
 Pearson, Charles Broderick, 1906-1908.
 O'Connor, William Francis, 1907-1919.
 Sheehan, Timothy F. Clifford, 1919-1921.
 Cotter, Nora, 1920-1921.
 Henley, Francis John, 1920-1923.
 Hamilton, William Dundon, 1921-1923.
 O'Driscoll, Robert Francis, 1942-1943.
 Corcoran, Eamon, 1943-1944.
 O'Brien, Michael Aloysius, 1944-1945.
 Conlon, Michael Brendan, 1945-1946.
 O'Rahilly, Ronan, 1945-1947.
 Beare, Maurice Sydney, 1946-1947.
 Murphy, Edward Digby, 1947-1948.

Assistants in Physiology :

O'Donovan, James Michael, 1919-1927.
 Freud, John, 1926-1928.
 Hamilton, Ellen, 1928-1931.
 Whelton, Andrew, 1931-.
 McCarthy, Earl Francis, 1933-1939.
 Loughnan, Owen Thomas Dermot, 1939-1945.
 O'Callaghan, Daniel Joseph, 1945-

Demonstrators in Physiology :

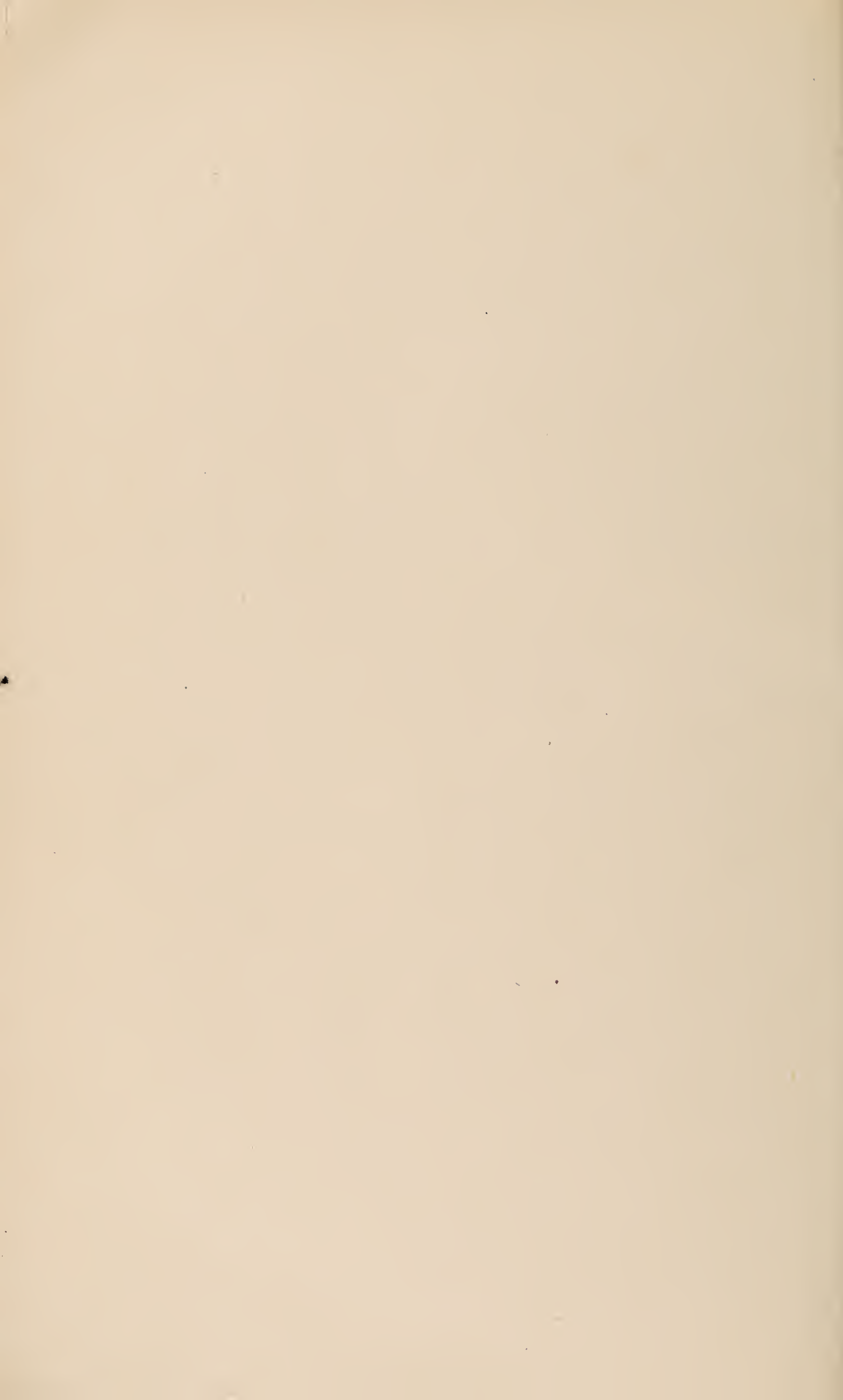
Barry, D. J. 1906-1907.
 Cox, Robert, 1907-1909.
 Wiley, Verner, 1909-1910.
 Murphy, Denis, 1910-1911.
 Barter, Richard Hy., 1911-1914.
 O'Donovan, James Michael, 1914-1917.
 Whelton, Moreen, 1917-1919.
 Bastible, Christopher, 1918-1919.
 Donegan, Evelyn H. M., 1920-1923.
 O'Donovan, William J., 1923-1927.
 Hamilton, Ellen, 1926-1928.
 O'Callaghan, Daniel Joseph, 1943-1944.
 Flanagan, Denis Martin, 1944-1946.
 Law (*née* Murphy), Mary E., 1945-
 Godfrey, Laurence, 1946-1947.

REFERENCES

- Alcock, N. (1808). *Dublin Medical and Physical Essays*. 2, 33.
Birmingham Revision (1933). *Final Report of Committee appointed by Anatomical Society of Great Britain and Ireland*. 36.
British Medical Journal (1899). 2, 16th Dec., 1700.
 Burke. *Cuttings from Landed Gentry*. 2nd Ed.
 Burtchaell, G. D. and Sadleir, T.U. (1935). *Alumni Dublinenses*. Dublin. 2nd Ed. (Not seen personally).
 Cameron, C. A. (1916). *History of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland and of the Irish Schools of Medicine*. Dublin.
 Corbett, J. H. (1852). *The Descriptive and Surgical Anatomy of the Arteries, and Relative Anatomy of the Veins and Nerves of the Human Body*. Dublin. Also London, 1855.
Cork University Record (1945). No. 4, 64.
 Derry, D. E. (1907). *J. Anat., Lond.* 42, 97 and 107.
 Dobson, J. (1946). *Anatomical Eponyms*. London.
 Dorland, W. A. N. (1944). *American Illustrated Medical Dictionary*. Philadelphia. 20th Ed.
Dublin Medical Press (1855). 34, 8th Aug., 89.
 Emmel, V. E. (1927). *The B.N.A.* Philadelphia. 2nd Ed.
 Eycleshymer, A. C. *et al.* (1917). *Anatomical Names*. New York.
 Fitzgerald, D. P. (1945). *Cork University Record*. No. 4, 49.
 (1947). *Quarryman*.
 Fleming, A. (1845). *Physiological and Medicinal Properties of Aconitum Napellus*. London (Not seen).
 Fleming, J. (1939). *Weekly Irish Times*. 1st Apr., 7.
 Gould, G. M. (1941). *Medical Dictionary*, London. 5th Ed.
 Gray, A. (1926). *Cambridge University*. Cambridge.
 Harvey, J. R. (1853). *Dublin Quart. J. Med. Sci.* 15, 491.
 (1858). *Ibid.* 25, 231.
 Hobart, N. J. (1850). *Dublin Quart. J. Med. Sci.* 10, 194.
 Kopsch, Fr. (1941). *Nomina anatomica*, 1895 und 1935. Leipzig. 3 Aufl.
Lancet (1849a). 2, 29th Sep., 363.
Lancet (1849b). 2, 6th Oct., 384.
Lancet (1856). 2, 15th Nov., 554.
Lancet (1864). 1, 20th Feb., 225; and 2, 2nd Apr., 399.
 Macalister, A. (1884). *Dublin J. Med. Sci.* 77, 1.
 O'Connor, D. C. (1879). *Brit. Med. J.* 2, 9th Aug., 201.
 O'Rahilly, R. (1945). *Cork Univ. Record*. No. 5, 11.
 (1947a). *Irish J. Med. Sci.* No. 262 (6th Ser.), Oct., 622.
 (1947b). *Cork Univ. Record*. No. 11, 27.
 (1948a). *Irish J. Med. Sci.* No. 265 (6th Ser.), Jan. 31.
 (1948b). *Irish J. Med. Sci.* No. 267 (6th Ser.), Mar., 127.
 (1948c). *Cork Univ. Record*. No. 12, 26.

- Pearson (1927). *Lancet*. 2, 31st Dec., 1377.
Q.C.C. (1905). 1, No. 1, 1.
Q.C.C. (1907a). 3, No. 5, 101.
Q.C.C. (1907b). 4, No. 2, 29.
Q.C.C. (1908). 4, No. 5, 101.
Quarryman (1929). 1, No. 1, 14.
Smith, G. E. (1908). *J. Anat., Lond.* 42, 198 and 252.
Sperrin-Johnson, J. C. (1946). *Cork Univ. Record*. No. 6, 15.
Stedman, T. L. (1946). *Practical Medical Dictionary*. London
16th Ed.
Stegmann, J. (1940). *Cambridge*. London.
Taylor, M. (1932). *Sir Bertram Windle*. London.
Todd, R. B. (1836-1839). *Cyclopaedia of Anatomy and Physiology*.
London. 2, 235, 268, 370, and 827.
U.C.C. *Official Gazette* (1912). 3, No. 7, 48.
U.C.C. *Official Gazette* (1920). 7, No. 27, 262.
Wheeler, T. S. (1945). *Cork Univ. Record*. No. 3, 29.
Windle, B. C. A. (1888). *A Handbook of Surface Anatomy and Land-
marks*. London. 1st Ed. The 3rd Ed. was published in 1902.





CORK UNIVERSITY PRESS

SOME RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Rev. Dr. James Handley, M.A.

The Irish in Modern Scotland

Price 17/6 (full cloth)
12/6 (stiff paper)

"For his purpose he has delved into many obscure sources: contemporary manuscripts, blue books, census returns and scores of other official publications. Scottish newspapers and periodicals, books and pamphlets—all were laid under tribute for this well-planned and masterly survey of an important phase of Scottish-Irish economic and social history."—*The Irish Independent*.

"It is hard to over-praise this book. Dr. Handley is not only an extraordinarily industrious and successful research worker, but one who is able to marshal his facts and to interpret them objectively . . . He has filled a gap left by Scotland's social historians."—*The Irish Press*.

Professor D. Gwynn, D.Litt.

Daniel O'Connell

Price 15/6 (full cloth)
10/6 (stiff paper)

"The book is a valuable addition to every student's library."—*The Irish Press*.

"This is a book that everyone ought to read, and as many as possible to possess. In our present state of political transition, it has timely value. For it depicts the ever-recurring problem of Youth's ambition and Age's inflexibility, and the complex interplay of secular and spiritual issues."—A. de B. in the *Standard*.

Kathleen O'Flaherty, M.A., Ph.D.

Paul Claudel and "The Tidings brought to Mary"

Preface by Paul Claudel.

Price 6/-

"Such prose would make anything beautiful; but only a good theme would call it forth."—Roddy the Rover in the *Irish Press*.

"This studious commentary . . . is . . . exceptionally welcome."—Cecilia Wall in the *Catholic Herald*.

"Miss Kathleen O'Flaherty's essay is a serious, detailed and absorbing study written in a very lucid style."—O. C. Cabot in *Duckett's Register*.

B. G. MacCarthy, M.A., Ph.D.

The Later Women Novelists, 1744-1818

Price 10/6

(*The Female Pen*, Vol. II).

"She has originality and vigour; in all this scholarly description there is not a dull paragraph. The critical intelligence can be a flashlight, a floodlight, or an X-ray. For manipulating the third, this author has powers of which we have had only the most tantalizing glimpses as yet; and her last two paragraphs prove that as a stylist alone she has great distinction."—Temple Lane in the *Irish Times*.

"Dr. MacCarthy's final chapter, devoted to Jane Austen, is the finest part of a brightly-written and scholarly work."—*The Irish Independent*.

JUST PUBLISHED:

President O'Rahilly.

AQUINAS VERSUS MARX

Price 2/6

Professor Denis Gwynn, D.Litt.

O'CONNELL, DAVIS AND THE COLLEGES BILL.

Centenary Series, No. I.

Price 3/-

IN THE PRESS:

Professor Denis Gwynn.

YOUNG IRELAND AND THE INSURRECTION OF 1848.

President O'Rahilly.

THE FAMILY AT BETHANY.

Gospel Studies, No. 1.

President O'Rahilly.

MORAL AND SOCIAL PRINCIPLES.